



**World Educator 2003**

# **Patricia Burleson**

**Island View Elementary School, Anacortes**

The World Affairs Council honors Patricia Burleson as its World Educator Award recipient for 2003. Patricia is a master teacher who brings the world into her classroom and inspires her students to experience learning in unique and authentic ways.

Patricia, a native of Washington State, has taught grades 3-12 for twenty-seven years. She has demonstrated exceptional leadership first in the Kent School District, then within Lopez Island schools and the Anacortes School District. A passionate advocate of teaching about Asia, in particular Japan, she integrates learning about Asia into her language arts, social studies, and art curricula.

Patricia has built numerous partnerships to support her work educating her students about Asia. She initiated a sister school relationship with Ieshima in Hyogo Prefecture in Japan, and she eventually secured significant funding from the Freeman Foundation to teach a course on Lopez Island on Japan and bring ten high school students to Japan for two weeks. She is currently working on facilitating a sister-school relationship between her school and Kisakata Elementary, a school in Anacortes' Sister City of Kisakata. She led a trip to Kisakata in April 2002 to introduce five other teachers and her principal to the school there, followed by a student trip in 2003.

Patricia is committed to sharing her expertise and programs with other educators and has been a frequent presenter at both the National Council for Social Studies and Washington State Council for the Social Studies conferences. She partnered with the Jackson School's East Asia Center on a Japan Summer Institute in 2001 and 2002 and has taught a class entitled "Learning and Teaching about China and Japan" for the past four years as part of the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia. Seeing the need for a K-8 conference on the teaching of social studies, Patricia was a leader in organizing an annual event to support elementary and middle school teachers as they educate their students about the world.

Patricia has been recognized for her leadership both locally and nationally. She was acknowledged as the "Teacher of the Year" by the Washington State Council for the Social Studies in 1994, and she most recently received the Elgin Heinz Outstanding Teacher Award from the United States-Japan Foundation.

Patricia represents the commitment to learning embodied in the World Educator Award. Since 1997, the World Affairs Council has honored an outstanding teacher who promotes international understanding in the classroom and contributes to the development of resources so that other teachers and community members benefit from his or her experiences.

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